

Remarks

The Office Action mailed April 30, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and this paper is Applicants response thereto. Claims 1-8, 11-12, 14-17, and 21-23 have been allowed. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,597,954 to Pless, et al. ("Pless").

Allowed Claims

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-8, 11-12, 14-17, and 21-23 have been allowed.

Rejections

In this response, Applicants have amended independent claim 18 as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter was added. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 18 is now in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 19-20 which ultimately depend from independent claim 18 are allowable for at least the same reason as independent claim 18.

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. If any matters can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Date: July 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



William J. Allen
Registration No. 51,393
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
Ten S. Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606-7407
Telephone: 312-463-5000
Facsimile: 312-463-5001